

Carroll, Rhonda

From: Kristine Cormier <kristine127@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 5:17 AM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Desmond's Law HB5344

**Testimony Concerning [HB 5344]
Judiciary Committee, Wednesday February 24, 2016**

**Kristine Cormier
Life-long resident of CT, State Employee, & Independent Rescuer**

I would like to thank the Judiciary Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 5344, Desmond's Law.

As a life-long animal lover and independent animal rescuer, I would like to express my unwavering support for volunteer advocacy for animals in criminal court cases regarding cruelty and neglect. All too often we see case after case of severe neglect and cruelty and brutality of innocent animals that cannot speak for themselves. These animals suffer immensely, are terrorized and often are beaten to the point of death.

Advocates play a critical role in speaking on behalf of these innocent animals that cannot speak for themselves. Additionally I have worked in the criminal justice field for over 22 years and can testify from first-hand experience how common animal abuse has become.

Working in the inner city for over 22 years I have seen countless animals that have been so badly abused, neglected, used in dog fighting, as bait animals, overbred by illegal backyard breeders, animals tethered outside 24 hours a day in extreme heat and cold weather conditions, and sick strays wandering the city. I have rescued many animals over the years, providing veterinary care at my own expense and have also worked in conjunction with animal control officers around the state as well as the humane society.

All too often perpetrators are either not caught or if they are, merely get a "slap on the wrist" for the crimes that they have committed against these voiceless animals. These criminals know that these animals cannot speak for themselves, and therefore continue their heinous behavior, believing they will continue to get away with what they do. Now is the time to pass this bill allowing these animals to have a voice and hold these abusers accountable.

In closing, I would just like to reiterate how important passing this bill is. It is a step in the right direction in helping innocent animals all over the State of Connecticut. It is our responsibility to do the right thing for the voiceless. I also like to ask that our State Representatives and State Senators co-sponsor this legislation.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this long overdue important piece of legislation.

Respectfully Yours,

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